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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated April 27, 2005. Claims 1-39 were examined. Claims 1-33 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4, 11-12, 19-20, 27-28, 30, 34, 36 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hassoun (US 6,061,418). The applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5-10, 13-18, 21-26, 29, 31-33, 35, and 37-38.

By way of the present amendment, claims 4, 5, 10, 15, 18, 23, 26, 29, and 35 are being canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

In view of the amendments to claim 1, applicants submit that the claim meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants respectfully submit it is unnecessary to specifically recite an input/output to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and note that in the context of the present invention, inputs/outputs are inherently part of the sequence of divide stages. Applicants submit the claim as amended is both novel and nonobvious and meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants submit that the language of claims 2-4 meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and note that claims 3 and 4 have been combined.

Claim 5 has been incorporated in claim 1. In view of the amendments to claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that the language meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants respectfully submit that the language of claims 8, 9, 13, 16, 24, and 25 meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, particularly in view of the amendments to those claims.

The Office action, due to an apparent typographical error, has not explained completely the rationale for the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Nevertheless the Office action expresses that it is unclear how the stages can be programmably coupled. Applicants point to, e.g., Fig. 3 and the description in paragraph 1036, which states that the "manner in which the different divide stages are effectively connected to each other is dependent, in at least one embodiment, on programmable signals provided to multiplexers 312, 314, and 318." Applicants

PATENT

respectfully submit that claim 11 meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and respectfully request that the rejection on that basis be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With respect to claim 12, the Office action states that it is unclear how claim 12 reads on the drawings. Applicants submit that although in applicants view the claim met all the requirements of 112, the claim has been amended for purposes of additional clarification. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 meets all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to claim 28 and 39 ("it is not understood how the divider can be 'programmed'"), the Examiner's attention is drawn to Fig. 3 and the description in paragraph 1036, which states that the "manner in which the different divide stages are effectively connected to each other is dependent, in at least one embodiment, on programmable signals provided to multiplexers 312, 314, and 318." Applicants respectfully submit that the claim language is both definite and supported in the application and thus meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants note that the language of claims 31 and 33 has been amended and is now believed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and request that the rejection on that basis be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Subject matter indicated as allowable has been incorporated into each of the independent claims. Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 11 incorporates the subject matter of claim 15. Claim 20 incorporates the subject matter of claim 23. Claim 27 incorporates the subject matter of claim 29. Claim 34 incorporates the subject matter of claim 35. In view of those amendments, applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

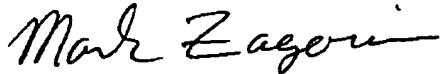
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Summary

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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